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FEATURES No. 4

NEW ENGLAND'S COTTONTAIL

NITAII

— John A. Litvaitis

Years of research are finally beginning to reveal the causes of the dramatic and mysterious decline our native cottontail has undergone in recent decades ...

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— David Ader

Had your fill of those television survival shows? Forget the hype and the competition: real survival schools teach cooperation and keeping your head ...

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— Jim Lambert

If you're heading out on the ice with fishing equipment this season, here's how to catch the biggest, toothiest and most beautiful of our finned predators ...

GRASPING THE GREAT HORNED OWL

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— Erin Talmage

Young great horned owls that hatch in late winter or early spring may leave their nests long before they can fly, but their parents are watching over them ...

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On the Cover: A great horned owl prepares to down a white-footed mouse, one of its principal prey items. The bird had been injured, but was rehabilitated and released. Using a 180 mm lens with a single flash plus a focusing beam, Bill Byrne caught it on Kodachrome film when it returned to a feeding station at the release site. Note that part of the nictating membrane — a clear "extra" eyelid — is just visible at the front corner of the eye.

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